

Warren-Child House
On the old Crown Point Road
Town of Weathersfield
Perkinsville Vicinity
Windsor County
Vermont

HABS No. VT-58

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

WARREN-CHILD HOUSE

Location: Town of Weathersfield, Perkinsville Vicinity, Windsor County, Vermont. (On the old Crown Point Road)

Demolished Fall, 1959.

Final Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Warren Child, Perkinsville, Vermont.

Final Use: Private residence.

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a representative house with unusual detail. Because of its third-floor ballroom and its proximity to the old Crown Point Road, the building is thought to have served as a tavern at one time.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: The house was built for Luther Warren whose father came to Weathersfield from Northboro, Massachusetts c. 1785. The final owners bought the house from Samuel Maxwell c. 1950.
2. Date of erection: Between 1816 and 1820.
3. Builder: John Boynton.
4. Notes on alterations and additions: The stairway between first and second floors was moved and the intersecting central halls altered to provide bathrooms and additional closets. The frame ell was added by the final owners to replace the original one destroyed by fire. The entire building was demolished Fall, 1959, as part of the Springfield dam project on the Black River. The site of the house is in the lake bed of the dam and will possibly be covered with water during times when the dam is used for flood control.

B. Old Views and References

1. Old views: Mr. and Mrs. Warren Child, Perkinsville, Vt., have several early photographs.
2. References:
 - a. Hamilton Child, Gazetteer and Business Directory of Windsor County, Vermont (Syracuse, New York: Hamilton Child, 1834).

- b. Herbert Wheaton Congdon, Old Vermont Houses (Brattleboro: Stephen Daye Press, Enlarged and revised edition 1946), pp. 72-74, 76, figs. 60-63.
- c. The American Heritage Book of Great Historic Places, Richard M. Ketchum, editor (New York: American Heritage Publishing Company and Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1957), page 71.
- d. Old Buildings Project of the Robert Hull Fleming Museum at the University of Vermont, Burlington, 1937-1938.
- e. Interviews with the final owners, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Child.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby and Henry C.
Edwards, Architects
National Park Service
September 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: This large brick house on a rural, farm setting is representative of the area. Some of the detail, particularly on the door and window frames and the fireplaces, is unusual and original, and the third floor ballroom is notable for its size and preservation.
2. Condition of Fabric: The building was in sound, well maintained condition until it was demolished in the Fall, 1959. The final owners saved some of the woodwork and hardware.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: The building is on a rectangular plan, 42' x 37' with a modern wooden ell projecting from the southeast end; it is 2 1/2 stories high plus a cellar, and divided into five bays wide and three bays deep.
2. Foundations: Foundations and cellar walls are rubble masonry of uncoarsed granite. The cellar walls are partially plastered.
3. Wall construction: The walls are constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond. An old coat of white paint was partially flaked off at the time of demolition.
4. Stoops: Entrance stoops are made of large, roughly cut blocks of granite.
5. Chimneys: Four brick chimneys are located symmetrically, two in each end wall, and project 4" beyond the face of the wall.

6. Openings

- a. Doorways and doors: Principal entrances are located on the front or southwest side and the northwest end. The doors are similar, six panelled arranged two over two over two panels, with side lights and three-centered, arched fan lights. A beaded trim used extensively on the doorways, made of large scale, ovoid beads, is unusual and original. The front door hardware is notable for a tulip shaped escutcheon and matching mounting plates on the door handle.

Secondary doors are located on both other sides of the house and a short tunnel leads to a cellar entrance on the northeast side of the house.

- b. Windows and shutters: Except in the south, first floor parlor, windows are 12 over 12 light, double hung, set in simple frames with a beaded trim like that on the doorways. The south, first floor parlor, has 9 over 9 light windows in similar frames. The third floor is lighted by two large Palladian windows, one in each gable end. Blind, brick, three-centered relieving arches are used over first floor windows and second floor windows on the ends. The shutters have fixed louvers.

7. Roof

- a. Shape, covering: Gabled roof with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed eaves with simple molded trim.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: The first floor originally had intersecting, central halls with a room in each of the four corners. The leg of the hallway to the northeast was partitioned off at some later time. Bedrooms on the second floor are similarly arranged. The third floor is one large, single room known as the "ballroom".
2. Stairways: One stairway, in the northwest hall, connects the first and second floors. Two stairways, in the southwest and northeast hallways, connect the second and third floors.
3. Flooring: Wide Pine board flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, papered or painted.
5. Doors: Interior doors are wood, either four or six panelled.

6. Trim: Molded wood trim.
7. Hardware: Hardware is mostly original wrought iron.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Heating is by a central plant plus fireplaces. Several of the original fireplaces were closed up including all those on third floor. The first floor fireplaces have typical, carved, wood mantels but the fireplace in the west parlor has unusual, turned, corner spindles.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces southwest on a partially wooded hillside in a rural setting.
2. Outbuildings: The original ell, two stories high and seven bays long, connected with the barn and other outbuildings (see Herbert Wheaton Congdon, Old Vermont Houses). These outbuildings burned several years before the house was demolished and were replaced by a short, wooden ell.
3. Landscaping: Informal with lawn, shrubs and trees.

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